



October 31, 2001

TO: Paula J. Hammond, Chief of Staff

FROM: Kimberly Colburn, Highways & Local Programs (H&LP) Division

SUBJECT: H&LP October Focus Report

## **OPERATIONAL ITEMS**

### **It's STIP Time Again!**

The 2002-2004 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) development is off to a flying start. All regional TIPs were received within the target due date and are now going through a final review. So far, only minor modifications have been necessary. Once again, the quality of the information provided is better than the previous year's submittals. This year's STIP will be delivered to Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) during the first week of December for their review and approval. The tentative effective date of the 2002-2004 STIP is January 2, 2002. Approximately 2,000 projects and their related phases are eligible to receive federal or state funds.

### **New FHWA Computer System Goes Online**

FHWA's new Fiscal Management Information System (FMIS 4.0) came online October 26. FMIS 4.0 is a web-based application that FHWA uses to track data related to all projects financed with federal-aid highway funds. This new system allows for electronic transmittal and approval of federal-aid project agreements between FHWA and state DOTs. H&LP was the second state DOT (after Oklahoma) to successfully transmit project data to the new system. We are currently in a trial period where authorizations will occur electronically as well as by hard-copy agreement. After FHWA and H&LP are satisfied with the mechanics of the electronic approval process, hard-copy agreements will be phased out and all project authorizations will be paperless.

### **Federal Funding Workshop**

H&LP partnered with FHWA to conduct the second Federal Funding Workshop, which was held at Northwest Region on October 24. Local agencies were invited to participate in this informal information sharing which included such topics as OMB Circular No. A-87: "Cost Principles for State, Local and Indian Tribal Governments" which outlines cost allocation plans and indirect cost rates. Prior to TEA-21, local agencies could not charge indirect costs to FHWA projects. Other workshop topics dealt with funds management of federal projects, advance construction, and various ways of matching federal projects.

There were 14 participants for the Northwest Region workshop. The first workshop was held in Southwest Region on August 27, where there were 26 participants. The goal is to conduct these workshops in every region by the end of 2001.

## **GOOD NEWS ITEMS**

### **IACC Infrastructure Financing Conference – 2001**

Final planning activities were completed this month for the upcoming Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council's (IACC's) biennial Infrastructure Financing Conference, which is scheduled for Nov 6-8 at Wenatchee's Convention Center. The IACC is a non-profit organization made up of representatives from state and federal agencies and private organizations providing funding assistance and technical expertise to local agencies. Some of the represented state agencies are WSDOT, Transportation Improvement Board (TIB), Public Works Board, County Road Administration Board (CRAB), Office of Community Development, and Office of Trade & Economic Development. Several of the federal agencies include US Department of Agriculture – Rural Development, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and Region X Environmental Finance Center at Boise State University. The target audience includes local agency public works personnel, city and county engineers, elected officials, tribal representatives, special purpose districts, ports and transit agencies, and consulting firms. To date, more than 275 registrations have been received.

WSDOT is one of the top supporters of this year's conference. This year, WSDOT is sponsoring one of the breakout rooms, providing displays and informational materials, and presenting information at three of the program sessions and one of the training sessions. Sponsorship funds come equally from Public Transportation & Rail Division, Transportation Planning Office, and H&LP Division. The list of WSDOT presenters includes: Galen Wright, Jeff Schultz, Todd Carlson, Greg Lippincott, Julie Matlick, Dave Zevenbergen, Dan Sunde, David Sorensen, Roger Chappell, Laurel Gray and Bob Brooks. Software demonstrations of the STIP and Hazard Elimination Safety (HES) software programs are also being provided.

## **OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST**

### **H&LP Staff Changes**

John Heinley is the newest member of the H&LP Staff as an Environmental Engineer. He comes to H&LP from the Transportation Economic Partnership office. He has been with WSDOT since 1991 and has experience in materials testing, construction inspection, design, planning, development review, and project documentation.

Julie Matlick has been appointed as H&LP's new Community Partnerships Program Manager, the position previously held by Mike Dornfeld. Julie brings tremendous experience and energy from her career within WSDOT and other agencies. Among other activities, Julie will be managing the technical staff for bicycling and pedestrian issues and for economic development issues.

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